



The Nature Center Stream

WINTER The Seasonal Newsletter of the Idaho Department of Fish and Game MK Nature Center **2016**

Welcome Wilson!

INSIDE THIS

ISSUE:

Dave's Two Cents	2
Bird Seed Volunteers	2
Team Peregrine	3
Spring Event	4
Check it! Protect it!	5
Fairy Godmother	6
BSU Lecture Series	7
Hummingbirds in Winter	8
Jr. Naturalist	9
Faces of Conservation	10



MK Nature Center's Susan Zeibarth holds Wilson. Susan has worked tirelessly to get this bird housed and cared for. Below: Inna Pervukhina Smith is a member of "Team Peregrine." She and a cadre of volunteers help care for Wilson.



Re-introducing *Wilson*, a male Peregrine Falcon we received last summer. In the summer edition of our newsletter, we reported the bird as a *she*. At that time, the bird was not able to be handled much and was just getting used to it's new environment. We are now proud to report that *he* has come a long way thanks to MKNC's Susan Ziebarth and a cadre of volunteers!



Dave's Two Cents

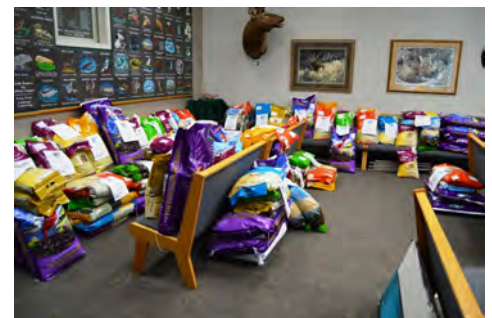
Dave Cannamela, Superintendent, MKNC

Years ago, Nature Center staff purchased a set of 65 plates, bowls, coffee cups and flatware for Idaho Department of Fish and Game functions, Nature Center volunteer dinners, fundraisers, celebrations, and auditorium rentals. These dishes have served us well over the years! We use the dishes in lieu of plastic and paper disposable products, helping us set an example for our visitors as to the many simple things we can do to conserve natural resources. However, over time, the set has dwindled due to breaks and chips and now it is time for a new, lighter (did I mention the first set weighed about 300 lbs.?) set.

In comes the Friends of MK Nature Center! Their first purchase is a set of 75 new plates and bowls, which happened in December, 2015. We are eagerly waiting delivery of our beautiful new dishes. They are light and stackable, and a classic white to accommodate any meal. Thank you to the FOMKNC; we appreciate your work and support and look forward to working with you in 2016.

Volunteers Make it Happen

Sue Dudley, Wildlife Educator, Gift Shop Manager, IDFG



Top row left to right: Anna Nyman helped carry bags of seed to cars; Mary McGown drove the card for deliveries, Bronwyn Myers asked kids to make a craft; Larry Ridenhour with Wilson the Peregrine Falcon; Raffle winners Emma and Shawn Shannon pose with their prizes. Bottom row left to right: Linda Jarsky ready to haul seed; Boyde Steel, from our sale's sponsor, Wild Birds Unlimited, there to promote birdwatching and feeding. Volunteers not pictured include Sandy Sweet, Susie Carlson, and Wyatt Meyers. In addition to all the wonderful volunteer help, I want to thank all the customers who came out to support the IDFG MK Nature Center's fundraiser! Pre-order sales (pictured bottom row right) were fantastic thanks to IDFG employees, Master Naturalists, Audubon Members and other dedicated supporters.

MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Team Peregrine

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, IDFG

As it turns out, raising a Peregrine Falcon takes a village! Thankfully, we have found some willing villagers. Last June, he arrived and we knew it would be a lot of work and commitment, but even with that foresight, we underestimated the time and effort it would take to properly care for him. Several people have stepped up to help. The pictures here show you members of what we call, “Team Peregrine.”

Wilson, now officially named, loves to eat! We use this to our advantage by rewarding him with food when he steps up on the glove. He is easy to handle and heads out on the path almost daily for a walk (perched on a glove). Recently, thanks to the work of Team Peregrine, I was able to hold him for the first time. He gobbled up a rat in about 2 minutes, slurping the intestines like spaghetti! I could feel his powerful talons poking through the glove and I could feel the force with which he ripped the bones and skin of the rodent.



Mike McCormick, BSU Professor was instrumental in connecting us with the BSU students who are part of the team. Wilson’s progress is thanks to Susan Ziebarth and her leadership of Team Peregrine. We appreciate all the volunteers who have spent hours cleaning, feeding, troubleshooting, and walking with Wilson.

Above: MKNC employee Celia Moreno holds there Peregrine. Celia’s daily tasks include Peregrine cage cleaning and bird feeding. Below left: Chris Lark showing the Peregrine at her first public appearance: a birthday party! Below Right: BSU students who joined Team Peregrine: Celia Moreno, Anna Autilio, Aislinn Johns and Skyler Wysocki. Members of Team Peregrine not pictured are Scott Sliney, Christen Sapnas, Deniz Aygen, Inna Pervukhina Smith, Mike McCormick, Eric Swiecki, and veterinarian Mark Drew.



MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Raptor Connection

Spring Event-Save the Date



The Idaho Watchable Wildlife Program and IDFG MK Nature Center are teaming up to bring you a new and exciting event this spring! Mark your calendars for APRIL 23, 2016! By design, this is also the date of Idaho Native Plant Society's Native Plant Sale. You can expect to see our Peregrine Falcon, Wilson and other live birds. In addition, you and your family will have the chance to learn about birds, native plants, pollinators, mule deer, and how they are all connected in our intricate Idaho ecosystems.



Check it and Protect it!

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, MKNC



Photo © Michael Morrison

Tax time fast approaches and though it may not be your favorite time of year, there are many wildlife species in Idaho who are depending upon you to complete your taxes with them in mind. On the Idaho State tax form 40, line 33 is the Nongame Wildlife Conservation Fund check off. This fund, along with proceeds of the wildlife license plates, is *your* mechanism to fund conservation work for Idaho's nongame species, which comprise at least 98 % of Idaho's animal species. No state tax dollars and no money from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses goes toward work for animals that are not hunted, fished or trapped. Songbirds, raptors, bats, squirrels, frogs, lizards, thousands of insects and other invertebrates, as well as Idaho's native plants are all benefited when you donate

via line 33. You know who else benefits from work on nongame species? Game animals! Because all these animals and plants are connected...conservation work for one, is conservation work for all! The Wildlife Diversity Program hires wildlife diversity biologists to work throughout the state. They also generously provide partial funding for the Idaho Department of Fish and Game MK Nature Center! This allows us to teach visitors about some of their favorite animals!

MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Hunter Education at MK Nature Center

Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, MKNC

In October, 2015, Idaho Department of Fish and Game Hunter Education Instructors hosted a “field day” at MK Nature Center. Hunter Education is required for everyone born on or after January 1, 1975 purchasing a hunting license. There are two ways to complete the Hunter Education.

1. Instructor led: This course consists of lectures and hands-on activities that cover topics such as firearm safety, animal identification, ethics and hunting methods along with a field exercise.
2. Home study internet based course: You can work independently through this course online, after which you must attend a field day.

For young people and new adult hunters, IDFG highly recommends the Instructor-led course. More information and course sign up can be found here. <http://fishandgame.idaho.gov/public/education/?getPage=30>

Top row; Hunter education student practices safe handling of a firearm.



Bottom row: firearms used in hunter education simulate real firearms, but are unable to fire a shot. Students practice how to hold a rifle properly.



MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

The Nature Center's Fairy Godmother

Jeanette Ross, Friends of MK Nature Center board member



No magic wand, alas, but the new Friends of the MK Nature Center are already making lists of ways to make the Idaho Department of Fish and Game MK Nature Center a more enjoyable experience for everyone. Our primary task is to help Idaho Department of Fish and Game raise money to make what's already good even better.

We would like to add to the existing enhancements already occurring like the enlarged viewing windows and mural. And, riding along the greenbelt, would you guess what wonders lie down that path with the modest sign? Wouldn't a bigger, brighter and weather-hearty sign be grand? Or at least grander than what we have? We can also imagine a mosaic art piece at a fish window, and an educational kiosk that does double duty, easy to maintain with space to hold gardening tools.

Well, we can't do it all at once. And we certainly cannot do it alone. The Friends of MK Nature Center board has only begun considering what could be done, and we need your help. Join us and have a part in the future of MKNC! Please visit our website for more information about us and to join our group! <http://www.friendsofmknc.org>



FOMKNC board members Bert Bowler and Joyce Harvey-Morgan, along with other board members were at the bird seed sale greeting supporters and asking folks to join the friends group.

MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Thank You For Supporting What We Do!

PAGE 7

These individuals and businesses supported the MK Nature Center* between October 1 and December 31, 2015 in the form of cash or in-kind materials. All other donors listed have joined the Friends of MK Nature Center Friends Group since its inception.

Bruce Ackerman	Sara Focht	Wayne Melquist	Don Ruesch (Strawberry Square Association)
Edwina & John Allen	Judith Focht	Pat Mills	Alex Takasugi
Kristen Barstad	Bob & Laura Foss	Maria Minicucci	Sue Treinen
Cherie Barton	Tom P. & Terry Frei	Joyce Harvey-Morgan	Trout Unlimited (Ted Trueblood Chapter)
Matthew Bergstrom	Milette Fujino	Arleen & Robert Morris	Lewis Ulrey
Donna Bostard	Amanda Gailbreath	Anna Nyman	Elizabeth Urban
Stephen Bouffard	Charles R. Gay	Hilda Packard*	Barbara Usitalo
Sonny & Lois Brown	Jay Gould	Dean Park	Katherine Vaughan
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Cindy Busche	Willow Hahn	Mark & Celia Renner	Judy Watterlin
Dave Butzier	Erika Harmon	Harry Richardson	Kevin Merritt (Western Weights & Measures Association)
Mick & Joey Chase	Anne Hay	Steven Richardson	Mary Whiteside
Darla & Steve Christiansen	Robert J. & Valerie J. Henning	Tom Rogers	James Whiteside & family
Janet Conley	Jodi Olson (Hewlett Packard)	Jeanette Ross	Wild Birds Unlimited*
Alan & Alice Crockett	Paul & Anne Hill	Tony Sandor	Wes Wills
Paul Cunningham	Elizabeth Hitchman	Arleen Schaeffer	Molly Wolk
Ann Debolt & Roger Rosentreter	Kristine Horrace	William Scott	John & Julia Wood
Mary Dixon	Linda Jarsky	Sierra Club*	Dwayne Wood
Sue Dudley	Susan Kayler-Daley	Ray & Ardell Skoglund	Mr. and Mrs. Leland B. True
Edwards Greenhouse*	Lisa & Doug Keithley	William & Nora Sliney	
Bob Ellis	Kroger (Fred Meyer)*	Jean Smith	
Matthew Evancic & family	Debi Mahler	Brent R. Snider and Kathryn A. Rogerson	
Chris Ezel	Barbara McGillivray	Julie and Boyd Steele	
Bob Fahey & Leanne Lloyd-Fahey	Barbara Mecham*	Mary Stieglitz	

Idea of Nature lecture Series at BSU

Boise State University's "Idea of Nature" Public Lecture Series continues for the 3rd year. The goal of the series is to promote interdisciplinary inquiry and to foster dialogue across the campus and community, based on the premise that big questions need interdisciplinary answers. It examines how ideas of nature are expressed in literature, art, philosophy, music and other humanities disciplines. The MK Nature Center is pleased to be involved in such a wonderful community event, stop by our table and say hello!

- The lectures are free, open to the public and no tickets are required.
- Free parking is available in the Lincoln Parking Structure with code: 70161485
- The lectures are held from 6-7 p.m. in the Student Union Jordan or Simplot ballrooms.
- Each lecture is followed by a reception with a no-host bar and appetizers.

To reserve a spot at a reception, ask questions about free parking, or information about the series, contact Samantha Harvey, associate professor of English, at SAMANTHAHARVEY@BOISESTATE.EDU or visit the IDEA OF NATURE WEBPAGE: <http://scholarworks.boisestate.edu/ideaofnature/>

March 3, 2016. Ellen Wohl, Department of Geosciences, Colorado State University.

"Messy Rivers are Healthy Rivers"

March 17, 2016. Donald Worster, University of Kansas.

"John Muir and the Religion of Nature: A Bankrupt Legacy?"

April 14, 2016. Laurel Thatcher Ulrich, 300th Anniversary University Professor, History Department, Harvard University.

"Adventures in a Natural History Museum."

MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Have You Seen a Hummingbird Lately?

Vicky Runnoe, Conservation Education Supervisor, IDFG

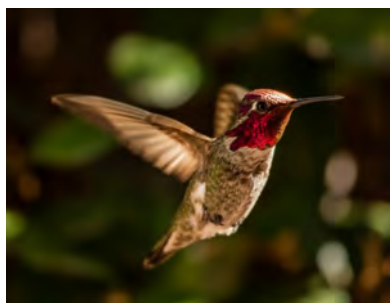
That's a silly question for mid-winter! Or is it? For some Idaho residents, particularly in the Treasure Valley, seeing a hummingbird dodging snowflakes in the yard is not so strange at all.

For the past ten years, Anna's hummingbird (*Calypte anna*) has been wintering in Idaho. No one is exactly sure why this is happening, but it could be part of a general range expansion by this species. Typically a common resident along the Pacific coast, Anna's hummingbird has been moving north from California since the 1930s. According to the North American Breeding Bird Survey, the Anna's Hummingbird population has been increasing by 2 percent each year since 1966. Birders as far north as Vancouver now regularly host this lovely species. Biologists think that the presence of feeders and hummingbird-friendly plantings are undoubtedly part of the reason for this dramatic range expansion.

It is possible that the increase in winter sightings in Idaho is also part of this range expansion. The diet of Anna's hummingbirds may help the birds survive the cold months. Like other hummingbirds, the Anna's eats a lot of flower nectar. However, insects also make up a large part of their diet. When winter arrives, the hummingbirds must shift their diet mostly to insects. An abundant supply of overwintering insects combined with the more moderate winter conditions in southwest Idaho, appear to create a winter get-away for some Anna's hummingbirds.

You can help overwintering Anna's hummingbirds by getting your hummingbird feeder out of storage. Use the same one part sugar to four parts water recipe as you do for summer hummingbirds. The biggest problem is keeping the food from freezing when the temperatures drop. Many ingenious methods have been employed including wrapping the feeders in Christmas lights, using a heat lamp or heated dog water bowl, or rotating several feeders in and out as they freeze. No matter what you do, it is still an amazing sight to see a hummingbird contentedly feeding against a snowy background.

If you are hosting an Anna's hummingbird this winter, please contact the folks at Boise State University's Intermountain Bird Observatory. They are trying to band as many hummingbirds as possible, as well as document their locations. You can reach them at IBO@boisestate.edu or by calling 208-426-2223. Enjoy this winter gem!



Anna's hummingbird. Photo courtesy Syler Peralta-Ramos.

The following people volunteered their time to the MK Nature Center between October 1 and December 31st, 2015.

MK Nature Center receives an average of nearly 500 volunteer hours monthly. Thank you!!

Susan Allison	Margit Donhowe	Chris Lark	Bronwyn Myers	Olivia Starr
Anna Autilio	Britt Eubanks	Kevin Laughlin	Rick Nielsen	Sandra Sweet
Lindsey Bays	Bob Foss	Mary McGown	Anna Nyman	Mike Tompkins
Erika Buchanan	Steve Fransen	Thomas Megis	Noah Pulin	Rebecca Wagner
Susie Carlson	Colleen Greenwalt	Tim Merrick	Addie Prinz	Susan Wildwood
Cindy Clark	Marylee Hale	Michelle Meyers	Barb Recla	Stacy Wingate
Alice Crockett	Raymond Heady	Wyatt Meyers	Nicholas Rehwalt	
Patrice Davies	Melissa Jannusch	Cheryl Minkler	Arleen Schaeffer	
Seth Davis	Linda Jarsky	Abby Moone	Inna Smith	
Nancy Dewitt	Aislinn Johns	Holly Moss	Maggie Smith	

MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection



Jr. Naturalist Camp



Experience!

Water
Mammals
Birds
Snakes
Fish
Fun
Art

Connect!

Friends
Nature
Science

Contribute!

Volunteer
Learn
Help your community

Junior Naturalist Camp

for 4th, 5th, and 6th graders

Designed to stimulate children's natural curiosity and sense of wonder, to help them learn about their natural environment and to become stewards of the earth.

The program will include the following:

- Observe with the senses
- Learn through experience, questioning, exploring, writing, and the arts
- Explore the basics of water, geology, trees, plants, mammals, reptiles and amphibians, birds, fungi and weather
- Study sustainability and the impact of our actions on the ecosystem
- Participate in an environmental volunteer activity in the community
- *****

March 21st-25th 2016 (Spring Break)
9:00 a.m.-3:30 p.m.

Program Fee: \$85
(Limited scholarships available)
Limited spaces available, so register early!

For registration information
contact Sara at the Nature Center at
sara.focht@idfg.idaho.gov or at 287-2906
MK Nature Center, 600 S. Walnut Street
Boise, ID 83712



The Faces of Conservation

Vicky Runnoe, Conservation Education Supervisor, IDFG and Sara Focht, Wildlife Educator, IDFG



A new front door display at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game MK Nature Center features the "Faces of Conservation." Design work by Idaho Department of Fish and Game's Kelly Yokoyama.

If you were to look into the eyes of "conservationists" in your community, you would be looking into the eyes of old and young, male and female, rich and poor, black and white, republican and democrat, and any other walk of life you can think of. Conservationists are indeed a broad range of folks who enjoy an equally broad variety of outdoor pursuits, contributing to natural resource conservation in their own ways. However, one particular group of conservationists is being featured on the entry wall at the Idaho Department of Fish and Game MK Nature Center. This beautiful new display highlights anglers and hunters enjoying the privileges of having managed and abundant wildlife. Throughout our country's history, sportsmen and women have taken the lead on many important conservation issues, funding, and legislation. And today, money from the sales of hunting and fishing licenses is the main source of funding for state wildlife agencies, including the Idaho Department of Fish and Game. Remember, your tax dollars do not fund this agency. With federal taxes on ammunition, and hunting and fishing gear, and boat fuel, hunters and anglers further pay for

conservation work in the form of Federal dollars granted to states for wildlife management. Many hunters and anglers are also active members of local, state, and national conservation organizations.

To further highlight this concept, the nature center is displaying two new informational posters in the outdoor kiosk. Created by Donovan Maude, a senior at the College of Idaho, the posters highlight the conservation work of Ducks Unlimited. Donovan developed the posters as part of his capstone course for his biology major. One poster provides information about the valuable contributions that sportsmen make to conservation. The other poster highlights DU's work here in Idaho restoring wetlands around the state. Both posters are part of the nature center's efforts to help visitors learn about how sportsmen contribute to conservation. Thanks to Donovan for his hard work! Be sure to stop by the kiosk to check it out. (One of Donovan's posters is shown on page 11).

Free Parking-Volunteers Bring in the Bucks

Sue Dudley, Wildlife Educator, Gift Shop Manager, IDFG



BSU football games bring in a lot of traffic to the Idaho Fish and Game MK Nature Center parking lot. Naturally, we cannot charge for parking in the Department's lot, but we can accept donations from willing Bronco Fans. This year, as in years past, a willing team of volunteers stepped up to collect donations, which are used to support Nature Center education initiatives. These volunteers braved some serious cold weather and even upped the ante by staffing an information and kids' activities table complete with prizes. Thank you Bronco Fans and volunteers for your great contributions. Photos left to right: Lindsay Bays and Mattie Smith; Lindsay Bays, Addie Prinz, and Noah Poulin; Susie Carlson and Erika Buchanan; Rebecca Wagner.

MK Nature Center - Your Face-to-Fish Connection

Sportsman and Conservation

The Integral Link Between the Conservation Effort and the American Sportsman.

By: Donovan Maude

Sportsmen are the greatest contributors to conservation in the world. They pioneered legislation in 1870 to address the decline in market animal populations. They began by making it illegal for wildlife to be harvested for commercial use and evolved into a system for allocating funds to the newly developing national conservation effort. To increase their effect sportsmen developed conservation organizations like Ducks Unlimited and the Rocky Mountain Elk Foundation. These organizations use donations to fund the restoration of habitat throughout the entire lifecycle of animals, expanding conservation programs between nations and for migratory animals, across entire continents.



State Fish and Wildlife agencies generally receive funding for the management of fish and wildlife resources from four main categories: federal allocations from taxes placed on specific categories of goods used primarily by sportsmen, excise taxes; mitigation from corporations affecting the animals and the environment; the sale of hunting and fishing licenses in their state; and both federal and private grants and donations. Sportsmen contribute 75 percent of the funding for their state agencies through both excise taxes and license fees.

In 1937 the hunting and shooting sport industries helped pass the Federal Aid in Wildlife Restoration Act, more commonly known as the Pittman-Robertson Act. This act placed a 10 percent excise tax on both firearms and ammunition, that was later raised to 11 percent to increase wildlife conservation funding during World War II. The money raised from the 11 percent tax is allocated back to the states to fund conservation efforts. In 2012, \$371 million was raised from this act alone, raising the total contribution to \$7.2 billion. Later through the Dingell-Hart Bill, the Dingell-Goodling Bill, and the Dingell-Johnson Bill, excise taxes to fund conservation and outdoor education were added to include handgun, archery, and fishing product sales.



Sportsmen contribute directly to the funding of conservation in three different ways, license fees, donations to conservation groups, and purchasing Federal Duck Stamps. License fees are the greatest contribution out of the three, giving \$1.4 billion per year to their state agencies. Donations to conservation groups are organizations run by sportsmen that do the on-the-ground work to improve habitat for fish and wildlife. The Duck Stamp program requires anyone hunting waterfowl over the age of 16 to purchase an annual Migratory Bird Hunting and Conservation Stamp, but also the stamps are available for purchase to anybody and can be used as a pass to national wildlife refuges. 98 cents of every Duck Stamp dollar raised is used to purchase land expanding the wildlife refuge system.

Acknowledgments:
Thanks to Mond Warren and Chris Colson with Idaho Ducks Unlimited, to Victoria Runnøe with Idaho Fish and Game, and to The College of Idaho.

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1. Young, Matt. "Sportsmen & Conservation." Ducks Unlimited. N.p., Oct. 2003. Web. Nov. 2015. <<http://www.ducks.org/hunting/sportsmen-and-conservation/>>.
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 3. Allen, T., Southwick, R., and Hewlett, D. "Hunting in America." (2013): n. pag. National Shooting Sports Foundation. Jan. 2013. Web. Nov. 2015. <http://www.nssf.org/pdf/research/huntinginamerica_economicandconservation.pdf>.
 4. "The Hunter and Conservation." (n.d.): n. pag. National Shooting Sports Foundation. 2011. Web. Nov. 2015. <<http://www.nssf.org/safety/BI/HunterConservation10.pdf>>.
 5. "History of the Federal Duck Stamp." U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service. N.p., June 2015. Web. 09 Dec. 2015. <<http://www.fws.gov/birds/get-involved/duck-stamp/history-of-the-federal-duck-stamp.php>>.



Species Highlight

The Bobcat

On December 14th 2015, we had an unusual visitor. A bobcat was spotted walking across the path right next to the visitor center. Idaho Master Naturalist, Martha McClay, who was here with her grandson and daughter-in-law came running into the building with the news of a “very large cat” on the grounds. She was sure it was not a domestic cat and she was sure it was not a mountain lion. She had that right! Somewhere in between the two in size, it was a bobcat hunting for squirrels. Fortunately, the cat did not seem too bothered by us taking photos with our zoom lens. It definitely saw us, but nodded off several times, acting tired or bored, and even prowled after a squirrel or two as we watched.

The bobcat (*Lynx rufus*) is the smallest of Idaho’s three feline species. Bobcats are widespread predators that adapt well to various environments, both wild and human. They are carnivorous, preferring rabbits and hares, but settling on insects, birds, rodent and deer if available.

Bobcats look a lot like the Canadian lynx only smaller with shorter ear tufts. They are much more abundant than lynx and are tolerant of human presence.

The third cat species in Idaho is the mountain lion. Although we have never seen a mountain lion at the nature center, it would be hard to believe one has never been through. Mountain lions are spotted along the Boise River Greenbelt and in odd locations in the valley and are usually removed by Conservation Officers if they persist in town.

All these cats are generally illusive and uninterested in humans. Mountain lions and bobcats can be legally hunted in Idaho in specific seasons and with appropriate licenses. Canada Lynx are listed as a Threatened species in Idaho under the Endangered Species Act. There is some current effort to list the Canada lynx as Endangered.



Left: Canada Lynx by Michael Zahra CC BY-SA 3.0 Photo from Wikipedia.

Right: Mountain Lion by K Fink NPS. Photo from Wikipedia.